

## S P E C I F I C A T I O N

Attorney's

Docket No. **0461M-001**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN that I, **HOWARD W. LISBY, Jr.**, a citizen of the United States residing in **Fort Worth**, Texas, have invented new and useful improvements in a

### **GOLF BALL RETRIEVAL AND BALL MARK REPAIR TOOL**

of which the following is a specification.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

## 1. Field of the Invention:

This invention relates generally to golf club accessories, and specifically to golf ball retrieval tools. More specifically it relates to a golf ball retrieval tool which doubles as a ball mark repair tool and a spacer for keeping the club grip clean and dry when the club must be laid on the ground.

## 2. Description of Related Art:

Any golfer is familiar with the number of times one must bend over to retrieve a golf ball, for example, once it is holed or when it must be moved to allow other players to continue play on the green. Bending also is required to repair ball or club impact marks made to the soft surface of the putting green or divots on the fairway. Playing 18 holes of golf can result in bending for these activities in excess of sixty times. For some golfers, this represents a physical burden which might prevent them from playing. At least for such golfers, a need exists for means to reduce the number of times they must bend and stoop during a round of golf.

Putting greens and the surfaces near them often are very soft and cannot support the weight of a golf cart. In route on foot to the putting green, a golfer often brings two or more clubs if the golf ball is not yet on the putting green surface, a putter and at least one additional club. While using one of the clubs, a golfer must put the other aside, typically by simply laying it on the ground nearby. Preferably the club grip should remain clean and dry, but it is common for the area near the putting green to be wet from watering, rain or morning dew. A need exists for means for keeping the grip from contacting the ground when a club is laid on the ground.

A number of different types of golf ball retrievers are available, including some that attach to a club grip. Some include a spring device intended to grasp the golf ball, while

1 others use a scoop to contain the ball. With most of these devices, however, it is difficult to  
2 secure the ball to start the lifting process or to release the ball once it is lifted. Very few  
3 include a ball mark repair tool or appear to be intended to help keep a club grip clean.

4 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

5 Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a tool or accessory for  
6 retrieving a golf ball.

7 It is another object of this invention to provide a tool or accessory for repairing a golf  
8 ball mark made on the playing surface without the need to stoop to do so.

9 It is another object of this invention to provide a tool or accessory to prevent the grip  
10 of a golf club from contacting the ground when the club is laid horizontally.

11 It is yet another object of this invention to provide a tool attached to the grip of the  
12 club itself for ball retrieval, ball mark repair and for keeping the grip off the ground.

13 The foregoing and other objects of this invention are achieved by providing a tool  
14 mounted to the end of a golf club or other handle, the tool serving as means for retrieving a  
15 golf ball, for repairing a golf ball or club mark on the playing surface and for preventing the  
16 club grip from contacting the ground when the club is laid horizontally. The tool comprises  
17 a head detachably connected to the grip end of a golf club. In a preferred embodiment, the  
18 head includes a tang which fits into a slotted plug in the end of the club shaft under the grip.  
19 In an alternate embodiment, the head includes a yoke that cups over the outer radius of the  
20 golf club grip and is held in place by an external strap. The head has three flat surfaces  
21 serving as a shelf for lifting the golf ball and two walls forming a corner for the ball to rest  
22 against and for keeping the ball captive during the retrieval process. Two prongs protrude  
23 from the shelf for repairing ball marks. These two prongs or the body of the tool also serve  
24 to hold the grip off the ground when the club is laid horizontally.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features believed characteristic of the present invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, as well as a preferred mode of use and further objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 depicts a golf club with a preferred embodiment of the ball retrieval tool of the present invention installed into the end of the grip.

Figure 1A depicts in perspective the preferred embodiment of Figure 1 prior to installation into the end of the grip.

Figure 2 shows, as indicated in Figure 4, the grip end of the club in Figure 1.

Figure 3 details in cutaway view, as indicated in Figure 4, the preferred embodiment of the golf ball retrieval tool of Figure 2 installed in an alternate manner in the grip end of the club.

Figure 4 is a transverse cross section through the grip end of a golf club, as indicated in Figure 3, with the preferred embodiment of Figure 2 installed therein.

Figure 5 shows, viewed as indicated in Figure 7, an alternate embodiment of the present invention, wherein the golf ball retrieval tool is attached to the exterior of the club grip with an attachment strap.

Figure 6 shows the alternate embodiment of Figure 5 viewed as indicated in Figure 7.

Figure 7 is a transverse cross section through the grip end of a golf club, as indicated in Figure 6 and showing the alternate embodiment of Figure 5 installed thereon.

1           Figures **8A** and **8B** depict in cross section a flag cup in which the preferred  
2 embodiment is employed to retrieve a ball.

3           Figure **9** shows a golfer preparing to lift a golf ball out of a hole, as detailed in  
4 Figures **8A** and **8B**, using the present invention.

5           Figure **10** is a depiction similar to Figure **9** showing use of the present invention to  
6 repair a club divot or ball mark.

7           Figure **11** details the steps in using the present invention to repair a club divot or ball  
8 mark, as depicted in Figure **10**.

9           Figures **12** and **13** show use of the preferred and alternate embodiments of the present  
10 invention to hold the club grip off the ground where the club is laid horizontally.

## 11           DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

12           With reference now to the figures, and in particular to Figures **1**, **1A**, **2** and **3**, club **23**  
13 is shown comprising shaft **25** having head **27** on one end and grip **21** on its opposite end.  
14 Tool **1** is shown installed into grip **21** end of club **23** substantially coaxial with axis **A** of  
15 shaft **25**. It will be noted here and further discussed below that tool **1** as depicted in Figure **1**  
16 lies substantially within a projected profile (not shown) of the sides of grip **21**. Also, club **23**  
17 is depicted in Figure **1** as a type of golf club known as a putter, but one having ordinary skill  
18 in the art will recognize that club **23** could be any club used by or commonly available to  
19 golfers, or alternatively, club **23** could be a specialized handle dedicated to tool **1**. As  
20 hereinafter used, references to club **23** shall mean any such handle means adapted to be  
21 employed with either embodiment of the present invention.

22           Tool **1** comprises body **3** extending substantially coaxially from the end of grip **21**.  
23 Tool **1** further includes shelf **7** disposed on the end of body **3** distal grip **21** and substantially  
24 at a right angle to body **3**. Backstop **13** is disposed at one end of shelf **7** and at a substantially

1 right angle to both shelf 7 and body 3, thereby forming with them an interior, three-sided  
2 corner. One having ordinary skill in the art also will recognize that this three-sided corner  
3 comprises means for receiving and retaining a golf ball when club 23 is inverted (see Figure  
4 9), thus positioning tool 1 beneath shaft 25 such that the ball rests on shelf 7 and against  
5 body 3 and backstop 7.

6 Gap 8 is shown between backstop 13 and body 3 and having a width substantially  
7 smaller than backstop 13 or body 3. The width of gap 8 is somewhat a matter of expediency  
8 and convenience, but it is chosen with two constraints in mind. First, it must be smaller than  
9 the diameter of a golf ball, obviously so that the golf ball cannot pass through gap 8.  
10 Secondly, gap 8 preferably is wide enough that it is adapted temporarily to receive storage  
11 means such as a strap or belt loop. This allows golfer 35 to remove tool 1 while using club  
12 23 and to clip tool 1 onto a golf bag strap or his belt (neither shown) by inserting the strap or  
13 belt into gap 8, thus keeping tool 1 handy for use once golfer 35 needs it. Thus, within these  
14 constraints, gaps of any size are considered within the scope of the present invention.

15 Extending opposite backstop 13 from shelf 7, a plurality of prongs 9 form fork 10, a  
16 projection used for repairing ball marks. Shown as substantially in the same plane as shelf 7,  
17 each of two prongs 9 preferably extends approximately two (2") inches and tapers to a point.  
18 Prongs 9 thus rather easily penetrate the ground beneath a ball mark, enabling golfer 35 to lift  
19 the compressed earth below said ball mark without causing significant damage from the  
20 penetration by prongs 9. One having ordinary skill in the art will recognize that various  
21 configurations of fork 10 may be employed within the spirit and scope of the invention.

22 With further reference to Figures 1A, 2, 3 and 4, body 3 is shown coupled to shaft 25  
23 by way of a narrowed portion, or tang 5 frictionally and snugly received within slot 19 of  
24 plug 17. Tang 5 is illustrated in the figures as having a substantially rectangular cross section  
25 with semicircular opposite ends, but may comprise other cross sections, including use of  
26 multiple tangs (not shown), without departing from the spirit and scope of the present  
27 invention. In the preferred embodiment, tang 5 preferably fits snugly enough within slot 19  
28 that no further securing means are necessary, yet tool 1 easily may be removed from shaft 25

1 with reasonable axial force. One having ordinary skill in the art will recognize, however, that  
2 any securing or coupling means are within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

3 Hollow interior **26** of shaft **25** typically has a circular cross section and may have  
4 parallel walls resulting in a regular cylinder shape, or it may be conically shaped if shaft **25**  
5 tapers from grip **21** to head **27**. Interior **26** also may have non-circular cross sections (not  
6 shown), such as rectangular or square, usually where the exterior of shaft **25** so varies.  
7 Finally, shaft **25** may be solid and have no interior **26** (not shown), in which case slot **19** is  
8 formed directly into the end of shaft **25**. One having ordinary skill in the art will recognize  
9 that any and all such variations in shaft **25** are considered within the spirit and scope of the  
10 present invention, with concomitant variations resulting in plug **17**.

11 Within interior **26** at grip **21** end of shaft **25**, plug **17** comprises a prefabricated  
12 cylinder of solid but malleable material, preferably wood or plastic, into which slot **19** is  
13 formed. Plug **17** has a diameter adapted to fit tightly enough within interior **26** of shaft **25**  
14 that said reasonable axial withdrawing force employed to remove tang **5** from slot **19** does  
15 not move plug **17** within interior **26**. If necessary to achieve this result, adhesive may be  
16 employed between plug **17** and interior **26**. Alternately, plug **17** may comprise an epoxy or  
17 other admixture poured into interior **26** at the end of shaft **25**, with either a removable block  
18 to create slot **19**, or with slot **19** later being drilled into plug **17** after the admixture sets. In  
19 any case, plug **17** must be tight enough within shaft **25** that it cannot easily be shoved further  
20 into interior **26** by insertion of tang **5** into slot **19**.

21 One means of assuring this is for plug **17** to include cap **18** which has an outside  
22 diameter larger than the interior of shaft **25**, preferably substantially equal to the outside  
23 diameter of shaft **25**. When golfer **35** inserts tang **5** into slot **19** and pushes it axially into grip  
24, cap **18** bears against the end of shaft **25** and prevents plug **17** from moving. One having  
25 ordinary skill in the art will recognize that cap **18**, in combination with frictional or adhesive  
26 contact between grip **21** and shaft **25**, allows some tolerance in the fit between plug **17** and  
27 interior **26**. This has the advantage of permitting plug **17** easily to be removed if necessary  
28 once grip **21** is removed from club **23**.

1           Turning again to tool **1** as shown in Figures **1** and **3**, a slight offset is apparent in body  
2           **3** between shelf **7** and grip **21**. This offset serves to position shelf **7** and backstop **13** slightly  
3           askew from axis **A** of shaft **25**. Such offset abets the following advantages.

4           As mentioned above, Figure **1** shows tool **1** installed into shaft **25** oriented such that  
5           it projects substantially within a projected profile of grip **21**. In Figure **3**, however, tool **1**  
6           does not lie within such projected profile of grip **21**, but is offset to one side of grip **21**,  
7           partially due to the offset in body **3** described above. Tool **1** thus may be installed in either  
8           of two orientations that are 180 degrees apart based on golfer **35**'s preference. Such  
9           preference would depend upon which way golfer **35** wished the above described three-sided  
10          corner to face, largely defined by which way golfer **35** found it easier to use tool **1** or by  
11          whether golfer **35** is left or right handed. Experiments have shown that some golfers prefer  
12          better visibility of the golf ball and tool **1** gained by the orientation shown in Figure **3**, while  
13          others prefer the sleeker profile of the orientation of Figure **1**.

14          Tool **1** preferably is fabricated from a single piece of flat, one-eighth (1/8") inch sheet  
15          steel, cut with the profiles of its component parts, tang **5**, body **3**, shelf **7**, backstop **13** and  
16          prongs **9** and bent at the joinder points of those components. This size of steel is chosen for a  
17          preferred balance of rigidity and light weight, but one having ordinary skill in the art will  
18          recognize that other combinations of thickness of steel may be substituted. One having  
19          ordinary skill in the art also will recognize that tool **1** could be fabricated from separate  
20          components later attached as described. Further, tool **1** alternately could be molded as a  
21          single object from a thermoset plastic such as styrene or cross-linked polyethylene having  
22          rigidity comparable to the preferred sheet steel specified while being considerably lighter and  
23          less expensive to fabricate.

24          Turning now to Figures **5**, **6** and **7**, an alternate embodiment of the present invention,  
25          tool **101**, is depicted which couples to the outside of grip **21**. This alternate embodiment  
26          allows golfer **35** to attach tool **101** to any golf club **23** without the need to modify the club in  
27          any manner.

1 As with the preferred embodiment described above, tool 101 comprises body 103  
2 having shelf 107 disposed on one end thereof distal grip 21. Backstop 113 is disposed on one  
3 end of shelf 107 perpendicular to both shelf 107 and body 103, forming gap 108. Prongs 109  
4 extend substantially coplanar with shelf 107 opposite backstop 113. These features are  
5 configured and used in similar fashion as described above for corresponding features of the  
6 preferred embodiment, and will not be discussed again except as they deviate therefrom.

7 Unlike the preferred embodiment, tool 101 does not include tang 5 for fitting within  
8 plug 19 within shaft 25. Instead, body 103 extends longitudinally away from shelf 107 to  
9 form shank 105. Attached to shank 105 is strap 118 which wraps around grip 21 and fastens  
10 with fastener 114 to hold shank 105 against one side of grip 21. Preferably, shank 105  
11 comprises a continuous extension of body 103, also preferably made from one piece of sheet  
12 metal as are shelf 107, backstop 113 and prongs 109. Shank 105 may be flat or  
13 longitudinally concave (not shown) to better fit the curvature of the side of grip 21.

14 Attachment strap 118 is layered approximately one and one half turns around grip 21  
15 and coupled with fastener 114. Strap 118 comprises a flexible fabric type material,  
16 preferably leather, with fastener 114 stitched to strap 118. Fastener 114 preferably comprises  
17 hook and loop strips commonly known as VELCRO, but one having ordinary skill in the art  
18 will recognize that fastener 114 also could be snaps, buttons, string ties or other commonly  
19 available fastening means without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

20 Coupled to one side of body 103 opposite shelf 107, yoke 117 has a generally U-  
21 shaped mouth 120 between sidewalls 121 and opposite bottom 123, yoke 117 thereby  
22 opening away from shelf 107 and toward grip 21. Yoke 117 presses onto the end of grip 21  
23 to affix the axial position of tool 101 on club 23. Yoke 117 couples to body 103 by tongue  
24 119 which attaches to body 103 by welding, adhesive or other known means. Preferably,  
25 yoke 117 and tongue 119 also are fabricated from a single piece of sheet steel, as are body  
26 103, shelf 107, backstop 113 and prongs 109. One having ordinary skill in the art will  
27 recognize, too, that tool 101 may be fabricated from other materials, just as may be tool 1,  
28 such as molded plastic or the like, without departing from the spirit and scope of the  
29 invention.

1           As best seen in Figure 7, shank 105 lies against a flat surface depicted for grip 21.  
2       Not all golf club grips are so shaped, however, some being substantially oval or circular  
3       (neither shown). Unlike tool 1 of the preferred embodiment, which can fit into almost any  
4       shaft 25, for tool 101 of the alternate embodiment to be universally useful, it must  
5       accommodate a majority of grips of various sizes and shapes or be made in a myriad of  
6       configurations itself. Accordingly, yoke 117 is selected with just such motive in mind.  
7       Specifically, as shown in Figure 6, yoke 117 extends perpendicular to body 103 substantially  
8       the width of grip 21, thereby substantially receiving the end of grip 21 within mouth 120.  
9       Preferably, mouth 120 opens to a width of one and one-fourth (1 1/4") inch, and sidewalls  
10      121 converge to a width of three-fourths (3/4") inch at bottom 123. Thus, mouth 120 of yoke  
11      117 as shown is shaped to accommodate most of the myriad of golf club grips available.  
12      Shank 105 then is laid parallel and against the outer surface of grip 21 and positioned so that  
13      yoke 117 is firmly pressed against grip 21. Attachment strap 118 is coupled to shank 105 and  
14      wrapped around the circumference of the combination of grip 21 and shank 105, as discussed  
15      above.

16           As shown in the figures and described above, tool 101 is configured with prongs 109  
17       extending leftward as viewed in Figure 5. One having ordinary skill in the art will recognize,  
18       however, that tool 101 just as easily could be arranged such that prongs 109 extend rightward  
19       in Figure 5, thus allowing for either a righthanded" or "lefthanded" tool 101, depending on  
20       the golfer's preference. Unlike the preferred embodiment discussed above, however, which  
21       may be reversed for lefthandedness or righthandedness by simply rotating tool 1 180 degrees,  
22       tool 101 requires that each type be fabricated separately. This is because simply moving  
23       shank 105 to the opposite side of grip 21 not only reverses the direction of prongs 109, but it  
24       also relocates them to the other side of grip 21. This further has the effect of merely  
25       reversing the position of club 23 head 27 and nothing more. Such relocation can render use  
26       of tool 101 much more awkward than tool 1 so reversed because of the distance shelf 107 is  
27       displaced from the other position. Though not depicted, this opposite arrangement will be  
28       recognized by one having ordinary skill in the art as being within the spirit and scope of the  
29       present invention.

1        In operation, tools **1**, **101** are used to lift golf ball **31** from cup **33** without golfer **35**  
2        stooping, to repair ball marks and to keep grip **21** clean and dry. As discussed in the sections  
3        that follow for tool **1**, the principles of operation apply equally to tool **101** because they  
4        operate similarly. Where they differ, separate mention of tool **101** will be included.

5        Referring to Figures **8A**, **8B** and **9**, golfer **35** first holds club **23** upright (not shown)  
6        and installs the invention onto grip **21** as discussed above for tool **1** or tool **101**. Golfer **35**  
7        then inverts club **23** and lowers tool **1** into cup **33** adjacent golf ball **31** (Figure **9**). As tool **1**  
8        moves to the bottom of cup **33** (Figures **8A**, **8B**), it pushes ball **31** to one side until it clears  
9        shelf **7**, whereupon it rolls onto shelf **7**. With a slight tilting motion of club **23**, golfer **35**  
10        positions ball **31** onto shelf **7** resting against body **3** and backstop **13** (Figure **8B**). Golf ball  
11        **31** then can be lifted out of cup **33** in this captive state. Continuing to lift club **23** until he can  
12        reach ball **31** with his free hand (not shown), golfer **35** thereby retrieves ball **31** from cup **33**  
13        without stooping.

14        Turning now to Figures **10** and **11**, tool **1**'s use to repair a ball mark is depicted.  
15        Assuming tool **1** already is installed, golfer **35** inverts club **23** and holds head **27** in one or  
16        both hands. Positioning prongs **9** adjacent ball mark **37**, golfer **35** tilts club **23** slightly away  
17        from himself to angle prongs **9** downward into ground **29**. Golfer **35** then pushes backstop  
18        **13** with his toe **39** to force prongs **9** into ground **29** until they extend beneath ball mark **37**.  
19        Next, golfer **35** rotates club **23** shaft **25** toward himself (phantom lines in Figure **11**) to cause  
20        prongs **9** to lift the earth beneath ball mark **37** until it bulges slightly (not shown) above the  
21        level of ground **29**. Golfer **35** then may tamp the earth now bulging above ball mark **37** as  
22        necessary to return it to the level of ground **29**, thus eliminating ball mark **37**. The entire  
23        operation thus can be performed from a standing or sitting position, without golfer **35** having  
24        to stoop or bend.

25        In similar fashion, golfer **35** can retrieve and replace of a divot, or clump of grass  
26        dislodged from the ground during play on the fairway. Proper use of irons requires that  
27        golfer **35** strike downward, through ball **31**. This causes his swing to reach bottom below  
28        ground, often causing a clump, or divot, of grass to be thrown forward. Using tool **1**, golfer  
29        **35** can retrieve this divot by snagging it with prongs **9** and drop it back into the original  
30        position, all without bending or stooping. Tool **1** works in this fashion better than a golf club

1 head 27 because of the sharp points of prongs 9, which tend to penetrate the divot and retain  
2 it from sliding off.

3 Referring now to Figures 12 and 13, use of tools 1 and 101 to keep grip 21 clean and  
4 dry is demonstrated. Again assuming tool 1 or 101 is installed onto grip 21 end of club 23,  
5 golfer 35 simply lays it on ground 29, largely by placing head 27 onto ground 29 and simply  
6 dropping grip 21. As grip 21 falls to ground 29, it brings tools 1, 101 into contact with  
7 ground 29 before grip 21 can reach ground 29.

8 As shown in Figure 4, tang 5 is oriented parallel to the flat side of grip 21. This flat  
9 side of grip 21 typically is installed and oriented on shaft 25 such that it is oriented toward  
10 the back of club 23, away from head 27, so that golfer 35's fingers engage it while addressing  
11 the ball with club 23. Thus, when tool 1 is inserted into slot 19, prongs 9 become oriented  
12 perpendicular to head 27, to one side or the other depending upon which orientation golfer 35  
13 chooses (see discussion above). In either orientation of tool 1, when golfer 35 drops grip 21  
14 to lay club 23 on the ground, he simply notes to which side of grip 21 prongs 9 extend, and  
15 drops grip 21 to that side so that prongs 9 engage ground 29 as depicted in Figure 12.

16 When using tool 101, golfer likewise drops grip 21 such that the edge of shelf 107  
17 engages ground 29, as depicted in Figure 13. In this case, tool 101 typically would be  
18 installed onto grip 21 with shelf 107 oriented away from head 27 and onto the flat side of  
19 grip 21. Because of the extra weight of tool 101, it will cause club 23 to fall such that head  
20 27 points upward from ground 29 (not shown). In fact, because of the extra weight of tool  
21 101, regardless of which side of grip 21 it is installed on, club 23 likely will fall such that  
22 shelf 107 engages ground 29 as depicted in Figure 13.

23 Thus, grip 21 will remain suspended above ground 29 as depicted in Figures 12, 13  
24 until golfer 35 retrieves club 23. Grip 21 stays above ground 29, avoiding becoming soiled  
25 or damp from moisture on ground 29. To retrieve club 23, golfer 35 can hook another golf  
26 club under shaft 25 or under grip 21 (not shown) and raise grip 21 end of club 23 to a  
27 position where he can grasp it with his free hand. Neither dropping nor retrieving club 23 as  
28 described requires golfer 35 to stoop or bend in the process.

1           Finally, tools **1, 101** may be employed to retrieve other objects from the ground, such  
2       as other clubs, the pin flag or the like. Simply slipping prongs **9, 109** under the shaft (not  
3       shown) of the pin flag or a club shaft and lifting can elevate the club grip or the flag so that  
4       golfer **35** need not stoop to pick them up. Likewise, tools **1, 101** can be employed in similar  
5       fashion to retrieve ball **31** from the surface of ground **29**, whether flat or not. Golfer **35**  
6       simply would place shelf **7, 107** adjacent ball **31** and urge ball **31** onto shelf **7, 107**, using his  
7       toe **39** if necessary, while gently tilting shaft **25** away from himself until ball **31** rests against  
8       body **3, 103** and backstop **13, 113**, then lifting club **23** until he can secure ball **31** with his  
9       other hand without stooping or bending.

10  
11           The present invention, described in either its preferred or alternate embodiment, thus  
12       serves a golfer of limited physical mobility in performing many of the functions required to  
13       participate in the sport of golf. This invention allows a person to retrieve a golf ball **31**, to  
14       repair a golf ball mark **37**, to retrieve a golf club **23** lying on the ground and to replace a divot  
15       on the fairway, all without bending or stooping.

16           While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to one  
17       or more embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in  
18       form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the  
19       invention. For example, the figures depict backstop **13, 113** as having a width approximately  
20       that of golf ball **31**, but substantial variations in the width of backstop **13, 113** may be  
21       appropriate to keep golf ball **31** captive. Likewise, the length of body **3** can have substantial  
22       variations and still allow golfer **35** to perform all of the intended functions of tool **1, 101**.  
23       Also, instead of strap **105**, tool **101** could attach by means of a rubberized cup stretched and  
24       fitted onto the end of grip **21** with the body **3** being coupled to the cup.

25           Further, the orientation of prongs **9, 109** is chosen to enhance golfer **35**'s ease in  
26       repairing ball marks while standing, as depicted in Figure **10**, while cooperating in ball  
27       retrieval from a flag cup, as depicted in Figure **9**. Prongs **9, 109** could, however, extend in a  
28       different plane from shelf **7, 107** to change the angle (Figures **10, 11**) at which shaft **25** is  
29       held while repairing ball mark **37**.